

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6039

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS INCREASE IN SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC STRENGTH.

BEGIN SUMMARY. PUBLIC OPINION POLL PUBLISHED APRIL 29
SHOWS LARGEST GAIN FOR FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
AND RURAL PARTY SUPPORT HALVED SINCE JANUARY 1972.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST PUBLISHED POLL TO TEST THE STRENGTH OF THE
SPLINTERED FINNISH RURAL PARTY (SMP) AND THE BREAKAWAY
UNITY PARTY (SKYP) SHOWS THE TWO PARTIES RECEIVING THE
SUPPORT OF 2.4 AND 2.0 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS RESPECTIVELY.
THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE 9.2 PERCENT RECEIVED BY THE SMP
IN THE JANUARY 1972 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AND THE 5.1
PERCENT OBTAINED IN THE OCTOBER 1972 COMMUNAL ELECTIONS
HELD WHEN THE PARTY' S INTERNAL STRIFE WAS CLEARLY VISIBLE.

2. THE MAJOR BENEFICIARY OF THIS DECLINE IN SMP SUPPORT
IS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP), ALTHOUGH NOT ALL THE
MOVEMENT IS DIRECTLY FROM ONE PARTY TO THE OTHER. THE
SDP' S SUPPORT HAS RISEN 2.4 PERCENT
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SINCE JANUARY 1972 AND

1.2 PERCENT SINCE LAST OCTOBER. THE TOTAL SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIALIST PARTIES (SDP AND COMMUNIST- FRONT " SKDL") IS NOW 46.1 PERCENT TO 53.9 FOR THE NON- SOCIALISTS. SIMILAR FIGURES IN JANUARY 1972 WERE 43.8(59 56.2 AND IN OCTOBER 44.9 TO 55.1.

3. RESULTS OF LATEST POLL BREAK DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

PAERS ON MORE LOGICAL AND ACCEPTABLE BASIS IN TERMS CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUPPORT; (D) IT WOULD ENCOURAGE SELF- RELIANCE ON PART RECIPIENTS WHO COULD THEN FULLY INTEGRATE UNITS INTO THEIR INVENTORIES AND BUDGETARY PROCESSES, THUS AVOIDING ELEMENT UNCERTAINTY POSED BY EVEN REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF RECALL; (E) IT WOULD SIMPLIFY ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM WITH CORRESPONDING SAVINGS TO BOTH USG AND BORROWER.

4. WE PLAN TO SELL AS MANY EXCESS VESSELS AS POSSIBLE ON WORLDWIDE BASIS. WE DO NOT PLAN TO PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE PURCHASE, BUT RATHER AT DATE NO LATER THAN EXPIRATION DATE OF LOANS. IN THIS WAY, PURCHASES COULD BE SPREAD OVER PERIOD OF A FEW YEARS, AS WE WANT TO MINIMIZE FINANCIAL IMPACT WHICH FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES COULD BE SIGNIFICANT EVEN THOUGH PRICES ARE SET AT MODEST LEVELS. " ROGERS

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